



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

December 17, 2013

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendy L. Watanabe", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES – FOSTER
FAMILY AGENCY PROGRAM MONITORING – FINAL STATUS
REPORT**

In March 2011, the responsibility for program monitoring of the County's Foster Family Agency (FFA) contractors was transferred from the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS or Department). As part of the transfer, the Audit Committee instructed the A-C to report on DCFS' monitoring of the FFA contractors. This is our final report on DCFS' FFA monitoring.

DCFS' goal was to monitor each FFA contractor annually. For Fiscal Years (FY) 2011-12 and 2012-13, DCFS had 50 FFA contracts.

Results of Review

For FY 2011-12, DCFS met their goal of monitoring all 50 of the FFAs, and issued reports for 49 of their reviews. DCFS indicated that they held the report for one agency after placing the FFA on "Do Not Use" status, and that they plan to issue the report in January 2014. DCFS did not monitor this agency in FY 2012-13 since there were no children placed with the agency. For FY 2012-13, DCFS met their goal of monitoring the remaining 49 FFAs, and has issued reports for all of the agencies. Attached is a list of the FFAs, and the issue dates of DCFS' monitoring review reports as of December 2, 2013.

DCFS also developed procedures and tools to monitor the FFAs. The procedures and tools generally cover the same key program requirements that the A-C reviewed, including reviewing children's Needs and Services Plans and psychotropic medication requirements, verifying the timeliness of children's medical and dental examinations, and ensuring that the FFAs obtain required criminal and child abuse clearances for their staff and foster parents. DCFS' monitoring procedures and tools also include facility site inspections, child interviews, and procedures for following up on prior issues and recommendations.

DCFS uses a standardized format to report the results of their reviews to your Board. The report format includes key information, such as identifying areas where the FFAs are not complying with their County contracts, and recommendations to the FFAs to correct the deficiencies noted in DCFS' reviews. In addition, DCFS posts their FFA monitoring reports on the Department's website at http://lacdcfs.org/aboutus/FFA_CompMon.html.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with DCFS in November 2013. DCFS agrees with our report, and will continue their efforts to monitor FFAs annually for program contract compliance.

We thank DCFS management for their cooperation and assistance during our review. Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:AB:DC:AA:js

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Philip L. Browning, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Public Information Office
Children's Deputies
Audit Committee

**DCFS' Foster Family Agency Monitoring Review
Report Issue Dates as of December 2, 2013**

#	Foster Family Agency	FY 2011-12 Reviews	FY 2012-13 Reviews
1	Alliance Human Services, Inc.	5/21/12	2/28/13
2	Alpha Treatment Centers	1/17/12	2/28/13
3	Aspiranet	2/29/12	8/7/13
4	Aviva	8/10/12	8/7/13
5	Beta Foster Care	5/30/12	10/18/13
6	Bienvenidos	7/24/12	1/18/13
7	Childhelp USA	5/11/12	10/25/13
8	Children's Bureau	5/15/12	1/18/13
9	Children's Institute, Inc.	9/4/12	11/12/13
10	Children's Way	9/10/12	9/12/13
11	Concept 7	4/10/12	4/25/13
12	Dangerfield Institute	9/21/12	8/2/13
13	David & Margaret	6/27/12	7/3/13
14	Eggleston Family Services	4/25/12	7/3/13
15	Ettie Lee	5/14/12	7/31/13
16	Families for Children	7/13/12	8/2/13
17	Families Uniting Families	5/1/12	11/27/13
18	Five Acres	4/3/12	11/9/12
19	Florence Crittenton Services	8/10/12	9/12/13
20	Foster Family Network	9/21/12	8/7/13
21	Fred Jefferson	9/19/12	7/5/13
22	Futuro Infantil Hispano	3/29/13	8/20/13
23	Guardians of Love	8/13/12	8/20/13
24	Hannah's Children's Homes	8/10/12	11/19/13
25	Hathaway-Sycamores	4/26/12	7/31/13
26	Holy Family Services	3/16/12	10/25/13
27	Homes of Hope	8/24/12	8/7/13
28	Inner Circle	3/29/12	8/1/13
29	Institute for Black Parenting	1	1
30	Kinship Center	7/19/12	1/24/13

¹ DCFS indicated that they completed their FY 2011-12 review of this Agency in August 2011, but held the report after placing the Agency on "Do Not Use" status. DCFS did not complete a FY 2012-13 review because the Agency was on "Do Not Use" status until their contract was terminated in June 2013.

#	Foster Family Agency	FY 2011-12 Reviews	FY 2012-13 Reviews
31	Koinonia Family Services	7/19/12	7/5/13
32	Latino Family Institute, Inc.	3/16/12	12/13/12
33	Masada Homes	6/13/12	7/24/13
34	McKinley Children's Center	6/27/12	9/30/13
35	Niños Latinos Unidos	11/16/12	11/12/13
36	Nuevo Amanecer	10/2/12	10/3/13
37	Olive Crest	8/8/12	9/11/13
38	Optimist Community Services	6/13/12	1/22/13
39	Penny Lane	4/3/12	7/8/13
40	Rosemary Children's Services	10/9/12	8/29/13
41	Secure Transitions, Inc.	11/27/12	10/10/13
42	Serenity Infant Care Homes, Inc.	3/15/12	2/28/13
43	South Bay Bright Future, Inc.	11/16/12	10/9/13
44	Southern California	6/22/12	7/31/13
45	Teens Happy Homes, Inc.	8/10/12	11/13/13
46	The Village Family Services	5/1/12	12/28/12
47	Trinity Youth Services	8/10/12	8/23/13
48	Walden Family Services	7/17/12	8/6/13
49	Westside Children's Center	4/3/12	7/31/13
50	Wings of Refuge	4/26/12	12/24/12